EDUCATIONAL CENTER

The National Capital a National University.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

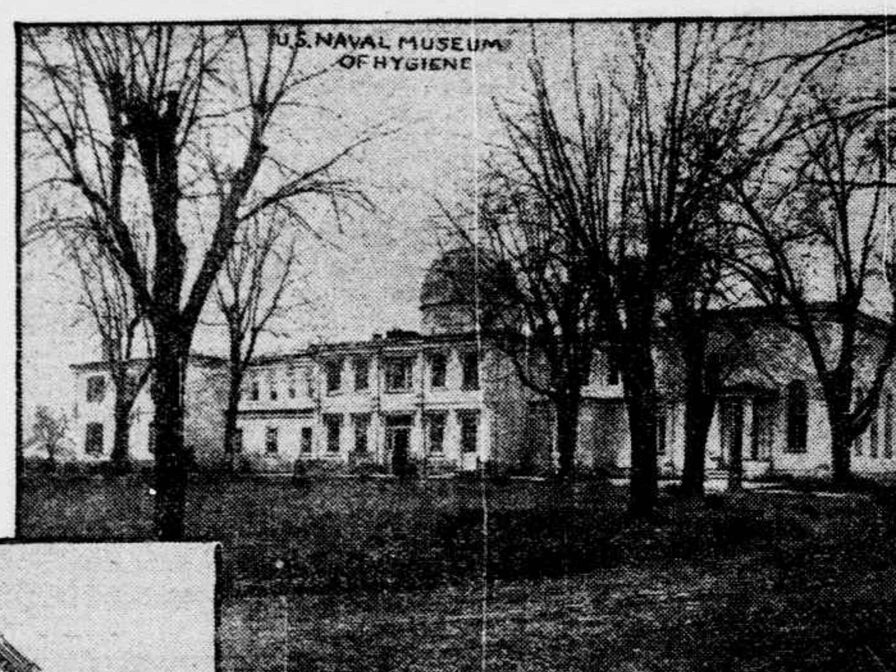
COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES WITH FACILITIES FOR TEACHING.

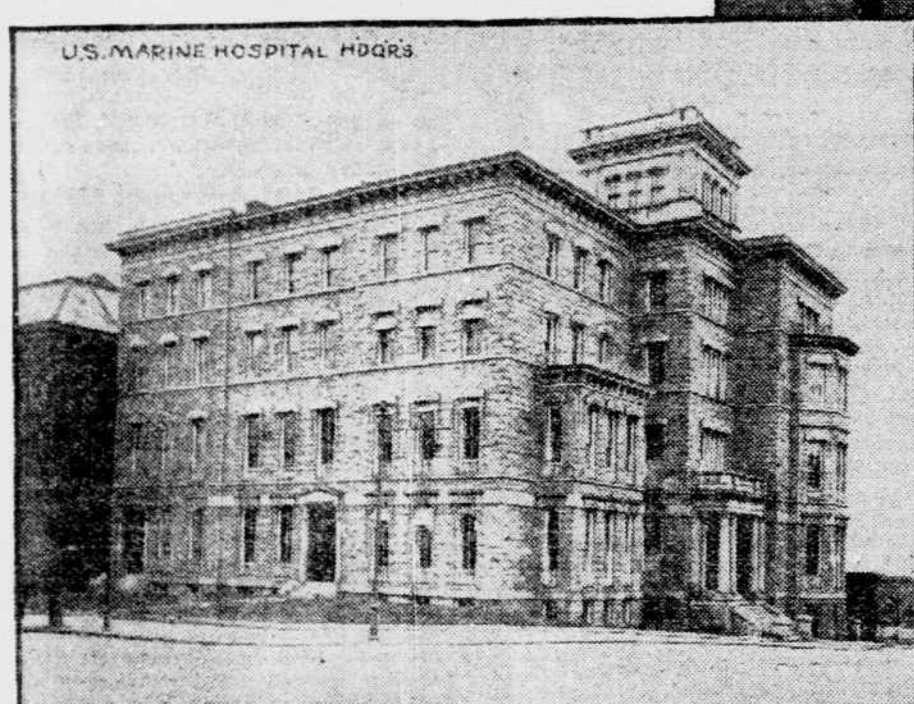
The Admirable Public Schools of the District and the Good Work Done by Them.

Whether or not the dream of Washington, born of his desire to see a great national university reared at the nation's capital, is realized in the form it was partly matured in his mind, its essential features have already been fulfilled. While Congress has taken no action for the specific purpose of establishing any great educational institution here, yet the effect of a large part of its legislation has been for the upbuilding of a center of learning in the District of Columbia. Its course has reacted on educational movements in such a way as to unerringly draw them to the one place in the whole country where the environment forms an adjunct to the class room unequaled anywhere and rivaled only by the expenditure of vast sums during generations by the greatest and wealthiest universities of the world.

The scientific departments of the government in themselves engage a corps of men whose time is occupied largely in original research and the treasures of laboratories and museums are annually being added to, not only for experimental work that is being pursued, but also incidentally for the instruction of any one whose inclination may lead him to this Mecca of learning. The Smithsonian Institution was a very early recognition of the destiny of the capital as a center of influence in the world of education. Smithson, the Englishman, could see clearly that the capital of the young and vigorous nation was to become a mighty influence in the future.

The social and governmental attractions of the capital of the dominant nation have made themselves felt on a vast army of men and women of letters who have chosen this city as above all others in its opportunities for the pursuit of their work. Here they have not only found a great library of a million volumes, constantly being enriched by accessions, the various priceless collections of the government, but above all they meet congenial minds in every branch of learning and from every quarter of the globe. They meet here men and women who "do things," who not only conceive great thoughts, but play great parts in the living drama of life.


U.S. NAVAL MUSEUM OF HYGIENE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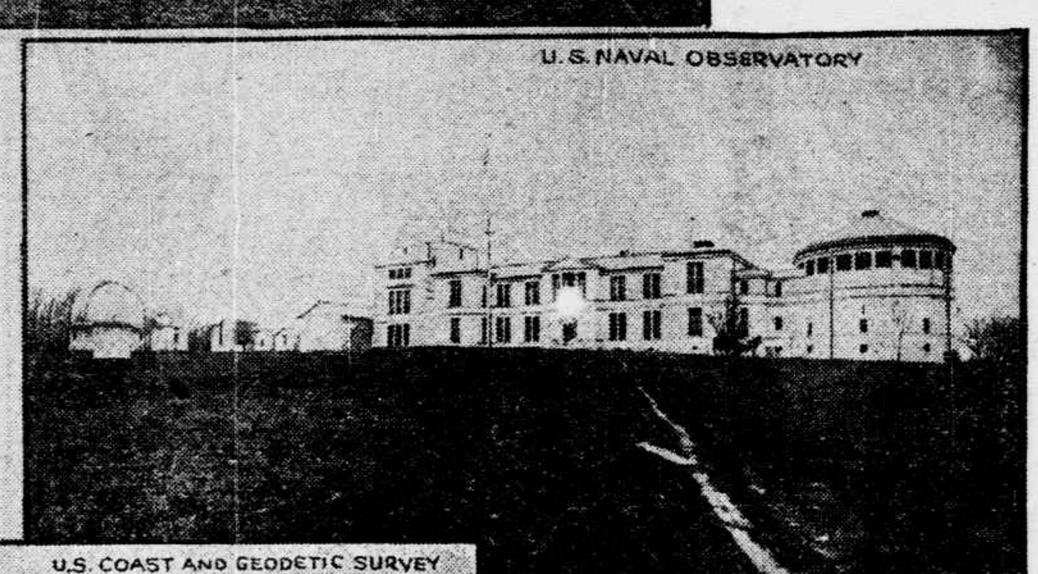

U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY


U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

A City as a University.

It is not strange that a city so favored by natural conditions should have turned on it the eyes of educators looking for ideal conditions for the growth of institutions of learning, and of men and women of fortune who desire to increase learning by devoting to it a part of their wealth. If Washington had a prophetic mind when turned to the subject of education, as he had in foreseeing the political destiny of the nation, he must have known that, whether or not his specific suggestions for a national university in this city were acted on by Congress, the city itself would become a national university. Year by year as these educational conditions become more and more apparent to the world the existing schools, colleges and universities enlarge their facilities and students from all parts of the world become more and more numerous.

In no city of the country are there superior opportunities for popular education than in the capital. The general tendency of the city is shown in the lowest rung of the ladder. Fifty years ago the "common schools" were patronized more largely by those whose parents could provide them no better opportunities than by the well-to-do. Even twenty-five years ago there was a disinclination on the part of many parents to send their children to the public schools. Whether this feeling at that time was because of prejudice against the common school, or based on just criticism, there is today no question about the best school in which to start young ideas in their shooting career.

For Rich and Poor Alike.

If the public schools of the city were not free to all the wealthiest parents would as a rule pay any price in order to have their children attend them and secure the advantages that come from a thorough organization and a careful selection of the best methods of education. These schools exemplify in the very highest measure the salient principles of public education as conceived by the advocate of the little red schoolhouse a century ago. They provide for rich and poor alike, with no restriction of any kind, equal opportunities for the cultivation of the mind, not only in the rudiments of learning, but in a curriculum that in many respects is superior to the foremost college of the land fifty years ago.

In these schools boys of all classes, if there can be said to be classes in them, are brought together. The boy from a splendid mansion learns that he has no mental endowment superior to the boy from the humblest cottage because of his home surroundings. Every boy here has a demonstration of the equal chance for success he has in life. All form friendships with no restriction except that of congeniality.

These favorable beginnings of education are indicative of the higher opportunities that the city offers. Tots in kindergartens advance to primary, to secondary, and then to the higher grades. Twenty-five years ago the high school was added to the educational system of the city, and today the public schools prepare boys and girls for entrance into the best colleges of the land. Still later, the more practical turn that is being taken by educators was manifested here by the opening of manual training schools, and although these schools have been established but comparatively a few years they have been demonstrated of such value that every year Congress acknowledges with more and more liberality their value.

The Manual Training School.

Last year, for the first time, a splendid manual training school building was appropriated for and when completed it will be a model of its kind in not only the personnel of its force of teachers but also in its equipment. It is easy for a boy to step from the public school to a college, as within the city there are several institutions that are far famed, and yearly enroll boys and girls from all parts of the country.

The First Colleges.

The first institution established here for the higher education was reared on the heights of Georgetown, and known as Georgetown College, later entering the broader realm of the university. As in its first years its students come from all parts of the country, and, indeed, of the world. It was established by the Jesuits and has uninterruptedly continued under their control. Its faculty has been enriched by men of distinction of their order from all the educational centers of the world in which the Order of Jesus is located.

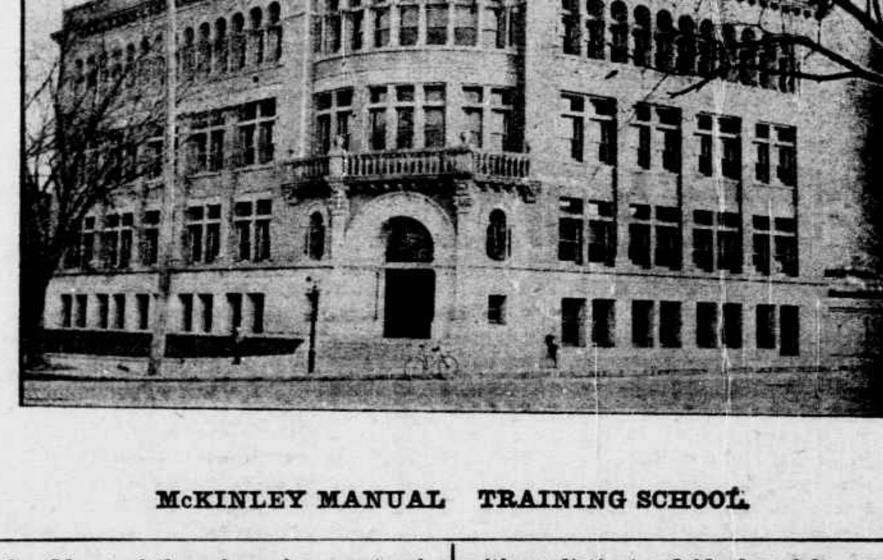
The second of the great institutions to be established in the District of Columbia was Columbian College, also long since entered into the realm of the university. From the first Columbian College entered upon a successful career and has always been a power for the education of not only the youth of the capital, but also of the country and world at large. In order that its usefulness might be increased by making more accessible its class rooms, it has built, one after another, dignified structures within and near the center of the city. In all branches of university work it has made steady progress. Being located in this city, where the services of so many men of distinction could be secured, its faculty has always included the names of many men of national reputation.

These two great institutions, Georgetown and Columbian, carried on their work while the city was young and before its educational advantages were enhanced by so many government aids in the form of exhibits of various kinds as exist today. With the development of the capital their opportunities for better and broader work have constantly grown.

Howard University.

After the close of the civil war the need for an educational institution in which colored boys might find all the opportunities of learning among members of their own race caused the organization of Howard University, which was located on a commanding hill on 7th street road just north of the city. Here have come colored students from all parts of the south as well as from every section of the country.

Howard University has successfully sought to give to the colored youth every opportunity for learning that is provided for their white brothers in the foremost universities of the country. The work has progressed steadily, and from this institution men have gone forth fully trained in all the professions to lives of usefulness among the members of their race. They have very largely located in the south. Every year classes of graduates have marked a step in the uplifting of the colored people. Many of them have become teachers, and in that capacity their influence cannot be calculated.


McKINLEY MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Catholic University.

Almost at the same time and within very recent years three new institutions, all sure to take the highest rank, have sprung up in the District of Columbia. They were all evidences of the latter-day demonstrations of the special attractiveness of the nation's capital for educational work. The first of these institutions was the Catholic University of America, located on broad acres and commanding heights north of the city adjoining the Soldiers' Home to the east.

The Catholic University of America was incorporated in 1887. Year by year its departments have been added to until today it comprises schools of sacred sciences, philosophy, letters, physical sciences, biological sciences, social sciences, law and technological sciences. Its work is confined to post graduate courses, and in every department an effort has been made to assemble the most distinguished men of letters of the world. It has several massive and handsome structures of stone. The university is the nucleus for numerous affiliated colleges. Its affiliated institutions are St. Thomas' College, the novitiate and scholasticate of the congregation of St. Paul the apostle; the Marist College, for the training of Marist scholastics in theological science and philosophy; Holy Cross College, College of the Holy Land and St. Austin's College. All these institutions are located near the university. Beside them there is associated with the university the Seminary of St. Paul of St. Paul, Minn.

The American University, established by the Methodist Episcopal Church, has been located amid most beautiful natural surroundings northwest of the city. It also occupies broad acres and commanding sites with ample ground for expansion and the building of a great institution. Its work is to be post-graduate, and will call to its service men distinguished in the world of letters and in scientific research.

The National Cathedral School for Girls, located on Woodley road and Wisconsin avenue, is also on a site of exceptional advantages, and the projectors and managers of the enterprise contemplate the building of an institution for the education of girls that will attract national attention, as, indeed, it has already.

The munificent gift of Mr. Carnegie for an institute to have its headquarters in the city for the advancement of learning is fresh in the memory of every one. The directors of this new and significant enterprise are developing their plans on the highest lines of advanced learning, the result of which cannot fail to be fraught with good to the world. It was especially fitting that, of all places of the country, this city should have been selected as the home for such an institution that comes more near than any other of embodying in a practical way the idea of Washington when he favored a national university to be located on the banks of the Potomac.

For the Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

Among the enterprises for special work the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, incorporated in 1857, and from its beginning located at Kendall Green, occupies a unique and especially successful position. To boys and girls suffering the misfortune of deafness it gives all the opportunities of a college of the first rank. The institution is of world-wide fame and its career has demonstrated that the human mind may overcome obstacles to an education that a few years ago were regarded as insurmountable. Experimental in its beginning it has become a fixed institution with as distinct a field of usefulness as any branch of education.

Not only the deaf, but the blind have exceptional facilities for education in this city. The Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind, although a late arrival among the educational movements of the capital, promises to be quite as useful as any that have preceded it. The institute has been encouraged by assistance it receives because of special facilities offered for its use at the Library of Congress. It undertakes to educate the blind in their practical needs and by its instruction in method of reading by raised letters it is opening to many an otherwise desolate life a means for culture. In its development it is expected the institute will in the future take on a national nature, which will call to its doors great numbers of the blind who may there enter upon a higher education.

Other Educational Institutions.

Gonzaga College, located at 47 I street, is one of the oldest schools of boys in the city, being established in 1821.

The Lucy Webb Hayes National Training School at 1140 North Capitol street has already assumed proportions that justify its name.

The National College of Pharmacy, located at 808 I street, has for many years occupied its present site, and not only has large classes from among the residents of this city, but from year to year has so extended its influence that it has, in fact, taken on a national nature.

The National University at 1328 I street is yearly increasing its classes and its influence as a national institution. It has called to its faculty many men of exceptional standing in their several professions.

St. John's College at 1225 Vermont avenue is another of the older schools of the city for boys.

The Ralston University of Expression was founded in 1884 and incorporated in 1892. Four years ago its name was changed to the Ralston University, and under that name it has progressed in its work.

The Washington College of Law, established primarily for women, is located at 802 F street, and, although established but a few years, it has begun graduating young ladies learned in the practice of the law. While it is primarily for women, it does not close its doors to male students and has men as well as women enrolled among its membership.

Washington College is another of the leading schools for young ladies which is working on ambitious lines.

Washington School for Boys, Dunster Hall, located at 4401 Wisconsin avenue, is one of the institutions known over the country, and which has grown partly because of its location in a place so favorable as the capital for the education of boys, especially because of its healthful influences on both mind and body.

The United States College of Veteran Veterinary Surgeons, incorporated in 1894, has been one of the foremost influences in raising the art of the veterinarian to the plane of the learned professions. Since its establishment veterinarians have received added standing in the army organization. The college seeks to bring to higher and higher levels the science it teaches.

There are here probably more private schools for girls and boys, the pupils of which come from all parts of the country and prepare for courses in the higher institutions of learning than in any other city of its size in the country. To this class of students the educational advantages of this city are especially great.

The attractions of the capital are attested yearly by the assembling here of educational conventions of all kinds. Indeed, the city has become known very widely as "the convention city." Those who attend these conventions, the purpose of which is more or less educational in special lines of activity, are always impressed with the city and its advantages, so that its popularity as a meeting place on such occasions has become so well known that most organizations that meet annually select this city more frequently than any other of the country.

A Picture Mystery.

From the Studio.

In Europe alone not less than half a million pictures must be painted—and decently painted, too—every year. What becomes of them? You don't find them in average homes. And yet, somehow, anyhow, the pictures disappear as though they were packs of cards handled by good conjurers. Can any one explain the mystery?

A LITERARY CENTER

Washington Boasts a Long List of Authors.

GOV'T PUBLICATIONS

RESIDENTS WHO HAVE ATTAINED WIDE FAME.

A Fruitful List of Writers of Books Furnished by the District.

Outside the notable galaxy of New England writers which adorned the latter half of the nineteenth century, and the last of whom passed away with Lowell, what city can furnish a more fruitful list of writers of books than Washington?

No one will attempt to answer this question, which is asked by no less a literary authority than Dr. A. R. Spofford, around whom the Library of Congress has grown, when he comes to consider the backing in the way of books and authors which Dr. Spofford has to substantiate his claim.

Thirteen Presidents of the United States have been authors, including Mr. Roosevelt, and more than that number of cabinet officers. This peculiar literary distinction which Washington may justly claim as her own is far from comprising even a tithe of the long list of her author-citizens, some of whom have achieved world-wide fame in letters, while others have divided their eminence in official and scientific pursuits.

Dr. Spofford was asked recently if he could tell of the literary features of Washington in a column of The Star. He thought for a moment and then remarked, in his characteristically pleasant but earnest manner, "I could tell it much easier in a page." Then he paused and reminisced.

Beginning in 1796.

The beginning of journalism in Washington, away back in 1796, is the starting point of the native literary production of the city. From that point as the pinnacle, like the glistening aluminum point on the top of the Washington monument, the descent may be made in solid polished marble blocks of literature of all classes—scientific, historical, governmental, fiction and current publications—sufficient in bulk and quality to rival that historic pile to the father of his country.

The Washington Gazette, published twice a week by Benjamin More, was the initial publication of the national capital. It lived but two years, from June 11, 1796, the date of its first number. It was not until two weeks before the first Congress met in the city in November, 1800, that Washington had another literary production—the National Intelligencer—transplanted from Philadelphia by its editor, Samuel Harrison Smith, and its first number recorded that the vessel bearing the plant of the Intelligencer sailed for no less than six weeks in making the trip from the Quaker city, via the Delaware river, Chesapeake bay and Potomac river. The Intelligencer lived for over half a century as a reliable and influential publication. Two of its early editors, Seaton and Gales, jointly did their own reporting and were accorded seats beside the Vice President in the Senate and the Speaker in the House. Both Seaton and Gales became mayors of Washington, and that honorable post has been filled no less than five times by journalists.

Other names in the early literary history of the city and which will always be connected with its foundation in letters are James C. Welling, who also made his personal impress on the Intelligencer; Col. Peter Force, still held in reverent memory and noted for his "American Archives" and historic tracts, which have contributed immeasurably to the scholars of the country in historical pursuits. Col. Force also published the National Journal, an early publication of great influence for sound political growth. The Journal was a warm supporter of John Quincy Adams and a keen rival of the Intelligencer. Then came Francis P. Blair, who founded the Globe out of six hundred subscriptions at $10 each, paid in advance by President Jackson. This sheet developed later into the Congressional Globe, the official organ of Congress in printing debates, and from which the Congressional Record evolved in 1873.

Kendall Green, the home of the Columbia Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, was established by Amos Kendall, one of Washington's early journalists. The Daily Union, by Thomas Ritchie and Dr. Gamaliel Bailey, who printed "Uncle Tom's Cabin" first in serial form in his National Era, and made, as Rufus Choate declared, "a million abolitionists." The National Era had such literary contributors as Whittier, Lowell, Sumner, Mrs. L. M. Child, Mrs. Stowe, Grace Greenwood, Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, Edward Everett Hale, Alice Cary, John Pierpont, S. P. Chase, Wendell Phillips, H. B. Stanton and Gail Hamilton.

Washington's First Woman Author.

For a quarter of a century Mrs. Anne Royall figured as Washington's woman author. Born in Maryland in 1769, she was stolen by Indians in childhood and lived with them for fifteen years. She married Captain Royall, a revolutionary soldier, and was left a widow with no means of support but her brains. She was fifty-six years of age before she became a writer, but in five years she had produced eleven volumes, the first being "Sketches of History, Life and Manners in the United States," and written after an extended tour of the New England states. She settled in Washington in 1831 and began the publication of a weekly journal which she designated Paul Pry—a curious mixture of politics and personalities.

Government Publications.

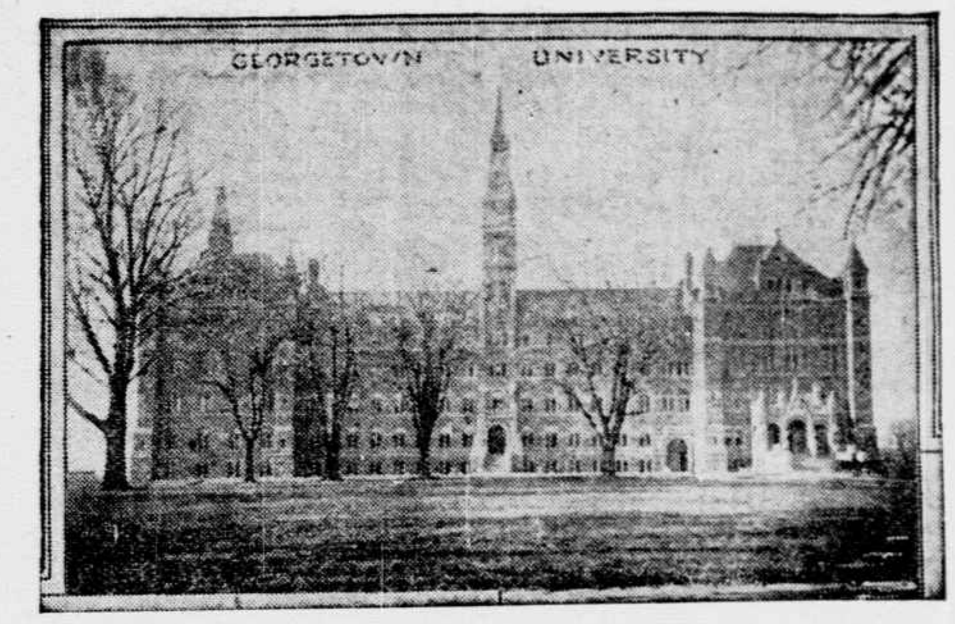
Then there is the long list of government scientific publications, whose authors may truly be said to belong to Washington. These works have illumined almost every field of research in science, so far as its practical relations are concerned. Almost all of the books put forth in this valuable field are the product of the last fifty years, and the larger share of them of the last twenty-five.

Of the Washington writers of history, Samuel Blodget stands earliest on the list, having published in 1801 what is believed to have been the first book published in America on economic science—entitled "Thoughts on the Increasing Wealth and National Economy of the United States."

Joel Barlow, author of that epic poem, "The Columbiad," printed in 1807, was a resident of Washington for a number of years, where he owned a fine estate, which he called "Kalorama."

The first descriptive book on the District of Columbia was written in Paris by David B. Warden, who was at the time American consul.

Jonathan Elliott was another indefatigable writer of the early period, and his historical sketch of "The Ten Miles Square Forming the District of Columbia" is the foundation for the guide and descriptive books on the District which have followed.


GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

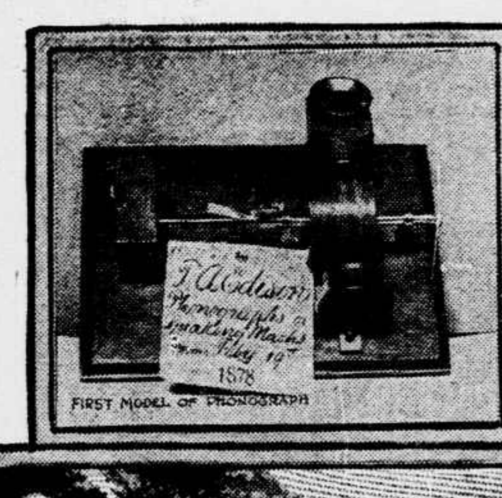
Distinguished Authors.

Among the distinguished authors which Washington claims are Francis S. Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner," George Watterson, librarian of Congress from 1815 to 1820, and author of several volumes of sketches descriptive of public men of his day; Peter Force and George Bancroft of historical fame, the latter of whom died here at the age of ninety; Samuel Tyler, biographer of Chief Justice Taney; Charles Lanman, writer of books of travel; Albert Pike, poet and author; Hugh McCulloch, author of "Men and Measures of Half a Century," Frederick Douglass, who wrote "My Bondage and My Freedom;" Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, whose many novels were mostly written in Georgetown; Mary Clemmer; Ben: Perley Poore; Samuel S. Cox, whose "Winter Sunbeams" are well known; John Sherman, author of "Recollections of Forty Years;" Caleb Cushing; Mary A. Denison, a copious writer of books of fiction; Joaquin Miller, the poet; Edward McPherson of political history fame; David D. Porter, author of "History of the Navy;" Harriet T. Upton; Elizabeth B. Johnston.

The Home of Modern Writers.

The list might go on indefinitely, as books are being produced at the present moment with increasing ratio. Today Washington is the home of many prolific and widely known writers. There is John Hay, who besides being the statesman, diplomat and ideal Secretary of State, is also known as the author of "Pike County Ballads;" Eliza R. Skidmore, who has brought Alaska and the orient home to us by her copious books of travel; Thomas Nelson Page, writer of many books of southern life; Frances Hodgson Burnett; Molly Elliott Sewall; John W. Foster, whose book on "A Century of American Diplomacy" has recently appeared; Clara Barton, author of "The History of the Red Cross;" Jeremiah Curtin, John A. Kasson, and still the list is not exhausted.

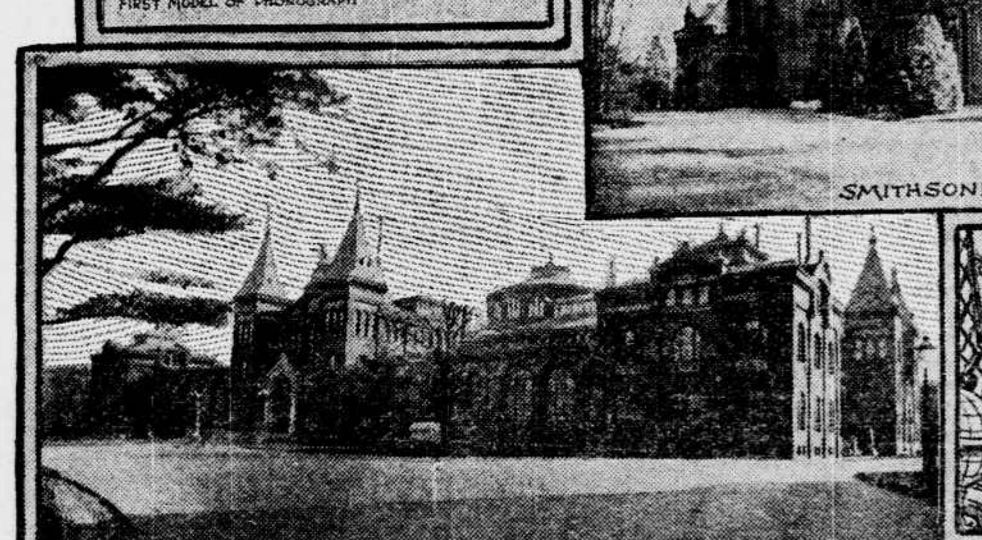
The reputation as a literary center which Washington has established for herself is thus seen to be laid on a firm foundation. That this reputation is to increase in splendor and brilliance in the future needs not a prophet to foretell. Where besides in the vast stretch of country comprising the American republic is gathered into one spot the whole life of the nation; its every phase, its every function of civic, industrial, intellectual and homely pursuits? Where besides can the author find a better field for the study of the American, of his every institution and the multitudinous phases of his life from the lowliest to the highest? And besides it all, here are gathered in accessible form the facilities for the widest research, accessible to the compiler of data of whatever character and free to the student of every profession. Realize all this and then ask with Dr. Spofford—what city can furnish a more fruitful list of writers of books than Washington.

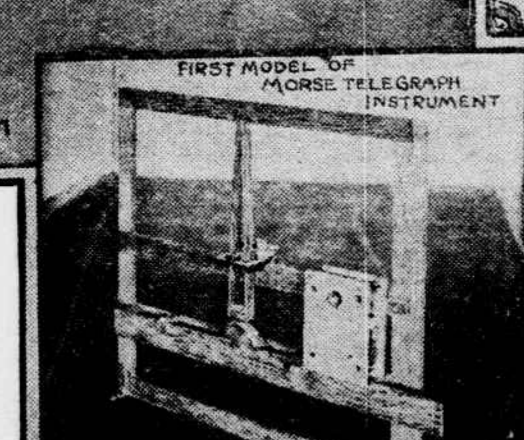


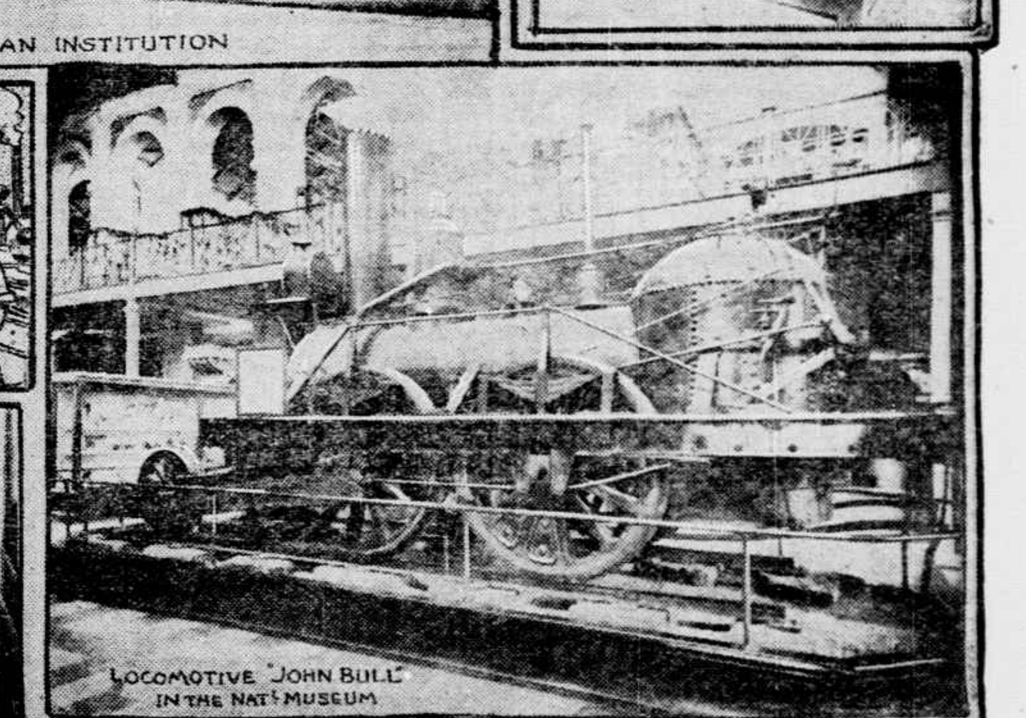
FIRST MODEL OF PHONOGRAPH


SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION


WHITNEY'S MODEL OF COTTON GIN


NATIONAL MUSEUM


FIRST MODEL OF MORSE TELEGRAPH INSTRUMENT


LOCOMOTIVE "JOHN BULL" IN THE NAT'L MUSEUM

Historic Association.

From the Springfield Republican.

It is a picturesque announcement that diplomatic relations between Greece and Persia are about to be resumed after an interval of non-intercourse, extending over 2,393 years. The last diplomatic relations between the two powers, it is said, was when Darius, in 491 B. C., sent heralds to Athens to demand the submission of the Greeks to Persia. The immortal defense of the pass at Thermopylae by Leonidas against the Persian host was in 480 B. C. The sending of heralds to Athens by Darius was not equivalent to the modern conception of continued diplomatic intercourse—but the episode perhaps will serve in the way it is now used in order to connect the Persia and Greece of today with their mighty predecessors of the ancient world. If the two countries were embodied somehow in spirit and had kept their faculties all these years, they might now sit down and have an interesting talk over their experiences since the days of Darius, Xerxes and Alexander.

Spirits and Spiritualism.

Georgina Weldon in The Academy.

I should like to know of anything in this world which is not more or less replete with fraud or adulteration. I have been a stanch spiritualist twenty-seven years, and I think I have proved there was more fraud in the law courts than in spiritualism. Spirits, adulterated or pure, injure the population millions of times more than spiritualism ever will.

It Can't Fail.

From Life.

She—"Why are you so sure your play will be a success?"

"Why, even the manager blushed when he read it."


COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY